

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00

CPR-02 STR-08 SS-20 SP-03 NSC-07 CIAE-00 INR-11

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 DRC-01 /122 W

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R 271825Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7873

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 6455

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN ECON AR

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON MINISTER OF ECONOMY GELBARD.

1. ON THE EVENING OF AUGUST 22, AMBASSADOR HILL CALLED ON MINISTER OF ECONOMY GELBARD ACCOMPANIED BY DCM, ECOM COUNSELOR, AND COMMERCIAL ATTACHE. APPOINTMENT HAD BEEN REQUESTED TO INTRODUCE WILLIAMS BEAL, NEWLY ARRIVED ECONOMIC COUNSELOR OF EMBASSY. WE FOUND THE MINISTER UNUSUALLY PREOCCUPIED BUT MAKING EFFORT TO BE CORDIAL AND EVEN JOCULAR. AFTER INTRODUCING MR. BEAL, THE AMBASSADOR ASKED THE MINISTER IF HE COULD GIVE US SOME INFORMATION ABOUT HIS PLANNED VISIT TO THE US, AND ON WHICH DATES HE WOULD BE IN WASHINGTON. AMBASSADOR SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD GELBARD WAS PLANNING TO ADDRESS A MEETING SPONSORED BY THE COUNCIL FOR THE AMERICAS ON EITHER SEPT 11 OR 13 AND THAT HE WAS ALSO PLANNING TO BE IN WASHINGTON. HIS REPLY WAS NOT AT ALL PRECISE. HE DID NOT CONFIRM ANY DATES. HE SAID THAT HE PLANNED TO VISIT WASHINGTON FOR A MEETING OF A COMMITTEE OF GOVERNORS OF THE IDB (PRESUMABLY THE ONE CREATED AT THE SANTIAGO MEETING, AND WHICH WE UNDERSTAND WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER OR EARLY OCTOBER TO COINCIDE WITH THE IMF/IBRD MEETING). HE DID NOT EVEN AFFIRM THAT HE WOULD BE MEETING WITH THE GROUP SPONSORED BY THE COUNCIL FOR THE AMERICAS. IN VIEW OF HIS VAGUENESS ABOUT HIS PLANS, THE

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AMBASSADOR AVOIDED RAISING THE LUNCHEON INVITATION FROM SECRE-

TARY DENT AT THAT MOMENT. INSTEAD, AMBASSADOR TOLD HIM THAT THE USG WAS NATURALLY INTERESTED IN THE PLANS OF THE ARGENTINE MINISTER OF ECONOMY TO VISIT THE US, SINCE WE WISHED TO INSURE THAT HE WOULD RECEIVE THE APPROPRIATE CONSIDERATION DUE TO A PERSON OF HIS RANK AND STATURE. AMBASSADOR TOLD HIM OF HIS OWN PLANS TO RETURN TO THE US FOR A VISIT FOR A WEEK BEGINNING AUG 24, AND SUGGESTED THAT HE GET IN TOUCH WITH DCM MONTLLOR AS SOON AS HE WAS ABLE TO CONFIRM THE DATES OF HIS VISIT. HE PROMISED TO DO SO NEXT WEEK.

2. DURING THE CONVERSATION, GELBARD TOLD US THAT THE CGE IS ORGANIZAING A GROUP VISIT OF ABOUT 100 ARGENTINE BUSINESSMEN TO THE WEST COAST FOR ABOUT A WEEK SOMETIME IN LATE SEPT OR OCT. THE AMBASSADOR INVITED GELBARD TO INFORM HIM AS SOON AS THESE PLANS FIRM UP SO THAT WE CAN ARRANGE APPROPRIATE TREATMENT FOR THEM. HE WAS NOT FORTHCOMING ABOUT THE PURPOSE OF THIS VISIT. GELBARD TOLD US THAT HE WAS PLANNING A TRIP TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA TO SIGN A TRADE AND ECONOMIC AGREEMENT. HE ADDED THAT THE CHINESE HAD LET HIM KNOW THAT IF HE FAILED TO COME TO CHINA TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT, AFTER HAVING GONE TO RUSSIA TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT, THERE WOULD BE NO AGREEMENT.

3. GELBARD WAS PERSPIRING PROFUSELY DURING THE ENTIRE MEETING AND CONTINUOUSLY WIPED HIS BROW. THIS MAY INDICATE THAT WORD HAD ALREADY REACHED HIM OF MINISTER VIGNES' DISPLEASURE WITH GELBARD'S PLANS AND THAT PERHAPS THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT HAD ALSO INDICATED SOME CONCERN TO HIM.

4. THE NEWS THAT AMBASSADOR ORFILA INFORMED THE DEPARTMENT ON AUG 23 THAT GELBARD'S TRIP HAD BEEN POSTPONED OR CANCELLED, WE ASSUME, PRECLUDES ANY FURTHER FOLLOW-UP ON OUR PART IN THE MATTER OF THE INVITATION TO LUNCH WITH SECRETARY DENT. MONTLLOR

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